REMARKS

The following is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated November 25, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 25, 2010. The Examiner rejected claims 52-68 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drenttel (U.S. 7,124,360) in view of Butler (U.S. 6,018,340). The Examiner rejected claim 69 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drenttel and Butler in further view of Santoro (U.S. 6,724,403). The Examiner rejected claim 70 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drenttel and Butler in further view of DeStefano (U.S. 6,075,531). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Rejections under §103(a)

Claim 52, as previously presented, recites the limitations of associating a first application window and a second application window with a first window area. Claim 52 further recites the limitations of displaying the first application window and the second application window within the first window area within at least two computer displays. The cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed "first window area" that includes the first application window and the second application window.

Drenttel discloses a technique for dividing a display screen into "sections." Drenttel also discloses that various templates may be provided that include sections organized in a pre-defined manner. One example of a template is shown in Figure 2A of Drenttel. The template shown in Figure 2A comprises two sections 30 that resemble Japanese tatami mats. Another example of a template is shown in Figure 2Aa of Drenttel. The template shown in Figure 2Aa includes three sections: one horizontal section that stretches the width of the display screen and two smaller sections 50 above the horizontal section. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner argues that Drenttel discloses the limitations of associating the first application window and the second application window with the first window area, as recited in claim 1, "because there are at least two areas 50 in the window area 30, and each area 50 can be configured by the user to associate with an application window" (Final Office Action at page 8). However, with this argument, the Examiner is misinterpreting the Drenttel reference.

The template shown in Figure 2A in Drenttel is completely unrelated to the template shown in Figure 2Aa in Drenttel. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the two sections 50 in Figure 2Aa are not sub-sections of section 30 in Figure 2A; rather, each of Figures 2A and 2Aa in Drenttel shows a completely separate and independent template with completely unrelated sections. As clearly described in the reference, the two different templates shown in Drenttel are composed of 2D sections, similar to building blocks, that cover the entire screen display. The template shown in Figure 2Aa simply uses smaller building blocks to cover the screen display relative to the building blocks used in the template shown in Figure 2A to cover the screen display. In short, Figures 2A and 2Aa of Drenttel show unrelated embodiments and are in no way related to one another. Drawing a relationship or dependence between these two different embodiments, as the Examiner has done, is inconsistent with the plain teachings of the Drenttel reference.

Moreover, Drenntel simply does not contemplate including two application windows within a single window area, as claimed. Instead, the reference contemplates a one-to-one mapping between information/data and the different sections of the screen display. If Drenntel contemplated including multiple types of information/data within a single section of a template, as claimed, then there would be no need for a template such as the one shown in Figure 2Aa in Drenntel, because the multiple types of information/data would be displayed in a single section 30. Thus, Drenntel actually teaches away from the claimed approach – again, there would be no need for a template like the one shown in Figure 2Aa of Drenntel if the reference contemplated displaying multiple application windows in a single window area, as claimed.

Butler discloses a technique for arranging windows that are displayed on one or more monitors, where a user can move and resize the windows to the desired location and size. However, there is no disclosure in Butler of user-defined boundaries or window areas, or equivalents thereof. The claimed window area is an intermediate construct that reflects a specific area on the computer display that can then be associated with the first and second application windows, as claimed. Such an intermediate construct does not exist in Butler, where a single window is directly

placed on the monitor display. As Butler contains no disclosure of window areas, the reference cannot cure the deficiencies of Drenttel with respect to amended claim 52 set forth above.

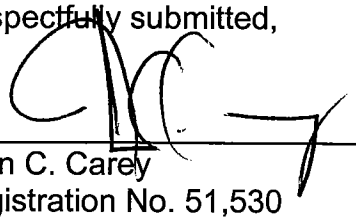
Each of Santoro and DeStefano fails to cure the deficiencies of Drenttel and Butler discussed above.

As the foregoing illustrates, the combination of the cited references fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 52. Therefore, the cited references cannot render claim 52 obvious. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 52 is allowable over the cited references and requests allowance of the claim. Furthermore, independent claims 60 and 68 are recite limitations similar to those of claim 52. Therefore, claims 60 and 68 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 52. The remaining claims depend from allowable claims 52, 60, and 68 and are therefore also allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicants believe that they have overcome all of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action dated November 25, 2009, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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